

SUBJECT SELECTION HANDBOOK



ST TERESA'S
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

*inspiring a life-
long love of
learning*

2027
Year 9



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Introduction

St Teresa's Catholic College is committed to creating a dynamic and supportive learning environment where students are provided with opportunities to realise their potential and pursue their aspirations.

Students in Year 9 consolidate their foundational learning through participation in subjects and courses that develop skill sets designed to set them up to succeed as independent, self-directed and motivated learners who are able to engage collaboratively with their peers to produce meaningful and relevant products of their learning.

Over the coming year, students will be challenged to begin considering their future pathway options and determine where their personal strengths, gifts and talents best sit within the framework of a plan for their senior years of education.

This handbook is designed to assist Year 8 students to make decisions about elective courses of study for Year 9. It contains relevant information pertaining to curriculum structures and courses that will be offered in 2027.

Curriculum Structures

In Year 9 all students will study a total of eight (8) courses each semester (6 core + 2 elective).

The structure of the curriculum offerings for Year 9 for 2027 will be as follows:

Full Year Core Courses (Studied for two full semesters by all students)

Students will study 6 compulsory 'core' courses in Year 9 for a full year.

- English
- Religious Education
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- Humanities (History and Geography)

These courses will all be delivered within the guidelines of the ACARA National Curriculum and Brisbane Catholic Education syllabus documents.

Elective Courses

In 2027 the Year 9 Elective Course Program will be represented by a selection of semester-long units of work.

Choosing Elective Subjects

Students are encouraged to keep their options open and experience a range of subjects to ensure that they experience the full range of opportunities available throughout Year 9.

Before making any decisions regarding the choice of Elective Subjects, please consider carefully the information that is presented in this Handbook. More specific information is available from the respective Curriculum Leader and subject teachers.

It is recommended that students select subjects that they enjoy and in which they have a genuine interest.

The Subject Selection Process

Students are required to choose six (6) preferences for their Elective Subjects for 2027.

This is made up of four preferred courses:

- Two for Semester 1 AND
- Two for Semester 2 AND
- Two reserve choices.
- Every effort is made to accommodate students' subject choices, however, some subject combinations may not be possible. It is for this reason that we ask students to nominate two extra choices as reserves.

Although all subjects are offered, on occasions there may not be viable numbers for a class (or a second class) to run within the timetable structure of the College. In such instances, we will refer to students' fifth and sixth preferences – as such, it is important to only choose subjects as preferences which you wish to be considered for.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS OFFERED IN 2027

Half Year (Semester based) Elective Options



Humanities and Social Sciences

Economics & Business

Young Queenslanders in the 21st century need to be:

- innovators
- entrepreneurs
- lifelong learners
- responsible global citizens.

Therefore, the Year 9 Economics and Business course develop an understanding of the effects of decisions made by consumers, workers, businesses and governments on individuals, households and markets as a whole.

Students will be able to:

- Join the 100k Entrepreneur Classroom Project – an eco-friendly business initiative involving Year 9 students to create a business classroom worth eventually 100k.
- Undertake creating a start-up business individually or in pairs to plan and develop a product/service, identify a target audience and determine strategies to market and sell their product/service online and at 'live test' opportunities. All revenue from sales goes to the students' business except for identified charity days.
- Meet and talk to local and national business owners to gain valuable insight into the world of entrepreneurship.
- Explain the importance of managing financial risks and rewards and analyse the different strategies that may be used.
- Explain why businesses seek to create a competitive advantage and evaluate the strategies that may be used.
- Complete Google Digital Garage modules to attain certification in the 'Fundamentals of Digital Marketing'
- Review the business on completion of the course and determine lessons learnt for potential future businesses.



Technologies

Design Construction

The practical wood workshop skills developed early in this course will provide a foundation for students to design their own project work and make a finished product. A range of tools and equipment will be used and design thinking skills to produce a solution to an identified need. A key focus is safety, which allows students to learn techniques safely that they then apply to produce their design ideas.

Design Graphics

Year 9 students will be taught how to professionally sketch simple 2D drawings for communicating design information. Aspects of basic 3D sketching and drawing will also be explored. Artistic techniques for presenting drawings and using basic CAD for drawing ideas will provide useful practical skills for any design situation.

Design Textiles

In Year 9 Textiles, students will learn how to transform creative ideas into wearable designs. This hands-on course introduces essential sewing skills and clothing construction techniques, empowering students to design and make their own garments. Using the design process, students will develop problem solving and critical thinking skills while expressing their personal style. The course also explores sustainable sewing practices, encouraging students to make environmentally responsible choices in both their projects and everyday lives.

Digital Technologies

In Digital Technologies, students learn about algorithms, computer languages and user interfaces through generating digital solutions to problems. Students develop skills in creating code using, Circuit Python, that have real-world applications. Students will program microcontrollers (Circuit Playground Express). They will use sensors to collect, display the information and use that information to control servos and motors.

Food Technology: Global Cuisines

In Year 9 Food Technology, students will set off on a culinary adventure, discovering the diverse cooking methods and techniques of various cultures. The course follows a historical timeline of changes in Australian food, starting from traditional Bush foods to the influences brought by migration and fusion foods. Students will explore how these global cuisines have shaped Australian food culture. This practical course equips students with essential cooking skills and food preparation methods, enabling them to create dishes from a range of global cuisines. Throughout this journey, students will enhance their problem solving and critical thinking abilities while showcasing their culinary creativity.



Languages

French

The Year 9 French course offers students an opportunity to further their French language abilities through a wide range of hands-on learning activities and assessments, including cooking, drama and role play, excursions, travel

planning and creating short movies. Learners are immersed in the language and culture of the Francophone world and participate in Manie Musicale - a global French music competition where they vote for their favourite artists.

Students can choose to study French for one semester or for a full year. Both options prepare learners for the Year

10 French Foundation course, ensuring they are confident in communicating, understanding key grammar concepts, and navigating real-world scenarios



The Arts

Dance

This unit provides an exciting foundation for practical learning and advanced creative thinking, suitable for all abilities. Focusing on the genres of Jazz and Contemporary, students will engage in technique workshops to develop rhythm, coordination, expression, and disciplined technique. Students will also learn choreographic elements and dance appreciation and will apply their skills in whole class activities, small group performances and in the development of their own dance compositions. Students will have an opportunity to present their work to a new, live audience, either at a dance eisteddfod or an Arts performance night, depending on the semester.

Drama

Year 9 Drama is a practical and collaborative course that helps students build confidence, develop performance skills, and explore creative storytelling. It's well suited to students who enjoy working as part of a group, thinking imaginatively, and expressing ideas through voice, movement, and staging.

In the semester course, students will focus on Children's Theatre, a performance style designed to engage and entertain young audiences. As part of this unit, students will:

- Learn about the key techniques used in theatre for children, including expressive movement, vocal clarity, and audience interaction.
- Work in small groups to adapt a classic fairy-tale, using the original story as a stimulus for devised performance.
- Rehearse and refine their work as an ensemble, while also considering the use of and creating their own costumes, props, and scenery.
- Develop an understanding of how to shape a performance for a specific audience – in this case, primary school students.

The unit will conclude with a live performance to a local primary school audience, giving students a chance to apply their skills in a real-world setting. Throughout the course, students will continue to build their communication, collaboration, and creative thinking skills.

Media Arts

Year 9 Media Arts provides students with the skills and knowledge to:

- Create media content that reflects their own personal brand to influence an audience and develop commercial appeal (Unit 1 – Your Personal Brand), and
- Create short films that build tension and keep the audience on the edge of their seats through a range of cinematic techniques, from jump scares to Hitchcock’s “bomb theory” (Unit 2 – Suspense).

Students have access to filming equipment, a laptop of their own, and the editing software Final Cut Pro X to learn essential production techniques through a series of engaging film activities. Throughout the course, students will also develop analytical skills by studying mise-en-scène, cinematography, and representations to create visually meaningful works. They will evaluate how and why media artists use media arts concepts to represent and challenge ideas, perspectives, and meaning. This course provides students with the creative and technical skills to bring their storytelling vision and personal brand to life.

Music

In this course, you’ll dive into the world of Australian Popular Music, discovering the artists, sounds, stories, and cultural moments that shaped Australia’s music scene. From iconic rock anthems to modern chart hits, you’ll learn how music reflects identity, culture, and social change — then use those ideas to create your own music.

You’ll also explore the exciting world of songwriting and music production, learning how artists use lyrics, instruments, beats, and effects to tell stories and express emotion. Whether you’re into Rap, Metal, Grunge, Pop, Indie, or Electronic Music, you’ll experiment with different styles and create original music that reflects your own ideas and influences.

Throughout the course, you will:

- Perform well-known Australian songs
- Write and create your own original music
- Explore music technology and production
- Build confidence performing solo and in groups
- Experiment with genres and musical styles
- Develop creative projects including music videos and live performances

No matter your experience level, Year 9 Music is about being creative, trying new things, and finding your own sound.

Visual Arts

Visual Art is a creative and hands-on subject where you can explore your ideas, express yourself, and experiment with exciting materials and techniques.

In Unit 1, you will design and create a large ceramic pot inspired by the **Hermannsburg Pottery**. You will learn clay building processes while developing a unique visual story that reflects your own experiences and ideas.

In Unit 2, you will explore the bold world of graphic street art, designing and painting your own artwork on a surfboard or skateboard, combining creativity with contemporary culture.

Throughout the course, you will build practical skills, confidence, and creative thinking while bringing your personal ideas to life. Students also have the opportunity to showcase their work at the annual **St Teresa’s Arts Showcase**. Visual Art is perfect for students who enjoy being imaginative, working creatively, and expressing who they are through art.